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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>KSUM PGOV PREL KPKO SOCI AU UNSC SU XA</u> SUBJECT: AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT: SUDAN ATTENDENCE

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 5670

(B) KHARTOUM 0045

- 11. (SBU) (SBU) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed post that Foreign Minister Deng Alor will attend the AU Summit, most likely on January 28 and 29. Though he has not yet requested a meeting, post suggests that A/S Frazer meet with FM Deng Alor, who was just sworn in as Foreign Minister earlier this month. Post does not know where FM Deng will stay while in Addis but will find out.
- 12. (SBU) Local press reports January 22 indicated that Sudan may again present its candidacy for the Presidency of the AU. This was vociferously denied by Presidential Advisor Mustafa Othman Ismail recently to PDAS Thomas-Greenfield (ref B). MFA Americas Desk Director Sanusi told us January 22 that he had heard President Bashir might attend. If President Bashir does not attend, the GOS will likely send other high-level NCP members of the government to the AU summit, if in fact Sudan does intend to present itself as a candidate for the AU Presidency. As in the past, Sudan will likely not finalize its delegation until the last minute.

FERNANDEZ